

A Healthier Nation, and a Better Future

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As I cruised listlessly through the somewhat dull channels Comcast cable has to offer on an eventless Saturday afternoon, I miraculously came across a show that I found interesting for a change. It was on a children's programming channel. As it has become quite obvious, the nature of this show was educational. This show was depicting the beautiful art it has taken nature many a millennia to create. As I sat there on my couch that evening taking in all the glorious sites that were appearing on the screen of my television of mystical oceans and wondrous creatures, I could not help but feel sorry for not just Mother Nature, but for mankind as well. Afterall, it has taken Mother Nature over a millennia to create all this beauty, but mankind has destroyed almost all of it within centuries. It is a shame that mankind has become so indifferent to the magnificence of this world. Luckily, there is a solution to this problem—recycle. By definition, recycle means: to extract and reuse useful materials from garbage or waste. But, if one is to look beyond the literal definition of this term, one will realize that recycling can have several meanings to different individuals. While to some it may just mean conserving limited resources, to others it can mean something wholly dissimilar. Consequently, my perception of the term causes recycling to mean a healthier nation, and a better future for coming generations.

To me, recycling means a healthier world. Imagine how much the environment would improve if everyone picked up after themselves. Litter pollutes many of the public facilities in various cities. Absurdly, much of that waste is recyclable. If that recyclable material had been thrown in a recycling bin in the first place, then not only would a new product be created at lower costs to the manufacturer and the consumer, but that piece of garbage would have been used for a good purpose. It would no longer lie on the side of the road defacing the beauty of the wondrous trees and the loveliness of the pretty flowers. Waste products are slowly eating away the precious lands of this nation by causing many acres of the earth to be

converted into landfills. A significant amount of the materials occupying the landfills are recyclable resources. If those things had been sent to a recycling plant instead of the landfill, then not only would there be more landfill space, but it would also have direct positive effects on the people of this nation. Thus, recycling to me means a healthier nation that I would one day very much care to enjoy.

Recycling also means a better future for coming generations. Right now, places like Los Angeles are so heavily polluted that the air is full of fog. Pollution such as this is caused by excessive production of certain products without having an outlet to prevent the negative consequences and effects. Likewise, common litter on the streets adds to this pollution and excessive dirtiness. This disease of littering is an epidemic that needs to be contained as soon as possible. Although this may sound a bit bizarre, littering is a small crime that in effect may lead to bigger crimes. Once an individual sees that it is so easy to break the law, he/she will become more inclined to litter more often, or to even commit another more serious crime. This epitomizes the need to create more recycling programs to encourage people to litter less, and maybe even conserve more. Also, the less litter there is in public places, the more beautiful a place becomes, which in effect might even give people hope to live better lives full of more success and happiness. An individual's surrounding greatly affects the way he/she views the world and him/herself. A better environment leads to healthier adults both physically and physiologically. If recycling is promoted to kids at young ages, then he/she will grow up to become intellectual individuals who will appreciate nature more and will grow up aware of the value nature has in the world and in people's lives. Hence, to me, recycling also means a better future for coming generations.

In conclusion, recycling has several important effects associated with it. Not only is recycling a means to conserve limited natural resources, but also it helps to create a healthier nation, and a better future for coming generations. Less littering leads to a healthier surrounding and a prettier environment. A clean environment causes people to increase their appreciation of nature, and become more intellectual individuals. A dirty, ungraceful world is not a world in which I want to bring future generations into. However, a world in which trees beautify all streets, flowers illuminate the elegance of Mother Nature, and fresh air is a luxury everyone can enjoy is definitely a place that sounds like a place that I want my grandchildren to enjoy.